

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A camera usable for capturing images of scenes illuminated by ambient light, said camera comprising:

a body;

an electronic imager disposed in said body, said electronic imager capturing an ambient light image as a multicolored electronic image;

a color detector assessing said ambient light to provide a color value;

a white balancing circuit determining a white balance color space vector defining a white balancing of said electronic image from said color value to a white point for a predetermined designated illuminant;

a reversal circuit determining a reverse color space vector originating at said color value and extending opposite said white balance color space vector;

a color balance adjusting circuit operatively connected to said electronic imager, said color balance adjusting circuit color balancing said electronic image at a compensation point located on said reverse color space vector to provide a compensated image; and

an image display disposed on the outside of said body, said image display being operatively connected to said electronic imager and said color balance adjusting circuit, said image display showing said compensated image.

2. The camera of claim 1 wherein said camera further comprises archival image storage media color balanced for said designated illuminant.

3. The camera of claim 1 wherein said compensation point is at the terminus of said reverse color space vector.

4. The camera of claim 1 further comprising a film capture unit, an optical system, and a shutter release, said film capture unit having an exposure

frame, said optical system directing said ambient light image to said exposure frame and said electronic imager, said shutter release being selectively actuatable to concurrently direct said ambient light image to said exposure frame and said electronic imager.

5. The camera of claim 4 further comprising photographic film disposed in said film capture unit, said film being color balanced for said designated illuminant.

6. The camera of claim 1 wherein said color detector is operatively connected to said imager and measures said electronic image.

7. The camera of claim 6 wherein said electronic image is pixelated and said color detector includes a block representative value calculating circuit that divides said electronic image into blocks of pixels and measures said blocks.

8. The camera of claim 1 wherein said color detector includes an ambient light sensor mounted to said body independent of said imager.

9. A camera usable for capturing images of scenes illuminated by ambient light using archival capture media balanced for a designated illuminant, said camera comprising:

a body;

an electronic imager disposed in said body, said electronic imager capturing an ambient light image as a multicolored electronic image;

a color detector measuring said electronic image to provide a color value;

a white balancing circuit determining a white balance color space vector defining a white balancing of said electronic image from said color value to a white point for said designated illuminant;

an reversal circuit determining a reverse color space vector originating at said color value and extending opposite said white balance color space vector;

a color balance adjusting circuit operatively connected to said electronic imager, said color balance adjusting circuit color balancing said electronic image at a compensation point located on said reverse color space vector to provide a compensated image; and

an image display disposed on the outside of said body, said image display being operatively connected to said electronic imager and said color balance adjusting circuit, said image display showing said compensated image.

10. A camera usable for capturing images of scenes illuminated by ambient light using photographic film color balanced for a designated illuminant, said camera comprising:

a body;

an electronic imager disposed in said body, said electronic imager capturing an ambient light image as a multicolored electronic image;

a film image capture unit capable of holding said film, said film image capture unit having an exposure frame;

an optical system directing an ambient image to said imager and said exposure frame;

a color detector measuring said electronic image to provide a color value in a predetermined color space;

a white balancing circuit determining a white balance color space vector defining a white balancing of said electronic image from said color value to a white point for said designated illuminant;

an reversal circuit determining a reverse color space vector originating at said color value and extending opposite said white balance color space vector in said color space;

a color balance adjusting circuit operatively connected to said electronic imager, said color balance adjusting circuit color balancing said electronic image at a compensation point located on said reverse color space vector to provide a compensated image; and

an image display disposed on the outside of said body, said image display being operatively connected to said electronic imager and said color balance adjusting circuit, said image display showing said compensated image.

11. The camera of claim 10 wherein said compensation point is at the terminus of said reverse color space vector.

12. An image capture method usable in ambient light, comprising the steps of:

capturing an ambient light image as an electronic image in a camera;

color balancing said electronic image at a compensation point located on a reverse color space vector opposite in direction from a white balance color space vector defining a white balancing of said electronic image;

following said color balancing, displaying said image in a display mounted on said camera.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said compensation point is at the terminus of said reverse color space vector.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising storing an archival image corresponding to said ambient light image in storage media.

15. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

storing an archival image corresponding to said ambient light image in storage media color balanced for a designated illuminant; and
assessing a color value of said ambient light image; and wherein said white balance color space vector defines a white balancing from said color value to a white point for said designated illuminant.

16. An image capture method usable in ambient light, comprising the steps of:

capturing an ambient light image as an electronic image in a camera;
storing an archival image corresponding to said ambient light image in storage media color balance for a designated illuminant;
assessing a color value of said ambient light image;
determining a white balance color space vector defining a white balancing from said color value to a white point for said designated illuminant;
determining a reverse color space vector originating at said color value and extending opposite said white balance color space vector;
color balancing said electronic image at a compensation point located on said reverse color space vector to provide a compensated image; and
displaying said compensated image in a display mounted on said camera.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said storage media is photographic film.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein said determining further comprises sampling said electronic image.

19. The method of claim 16 further comprising replicating said electronic image to provide a second image and white balancing said second image.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said showing further comprises displaying said compensated image and said second copy in selective alternation.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising, prior to said displaying, calibrating said electronic image and said second copy to said display.

22. The method of claim 19 further comprising showing said electronic image during a time period following said capturing and said showing said second copy after the end of said time period.

23. The method of claim 22 further comprising deleting said electronic image following said time period.

24. The method of claim 22 further comprising selectively showing said second copy during said time period.